



Tips for Going Green

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◆ *In Your Home* ◆

- ☐ Do a home energy audit
- ☐ Use online tools for a custom analysis of your home's "carbon footprint"
- ☐ Consider environmentally-friendly or "green" remodeling



Appliances

- ☐ Replace or remove aging and inefficient appliances
- ☐ When replacing major appliances, buy the most efficient models you can afford
- ☐ Look for the "Energy Star" logo. This designation from the Environmental Protection Agency means the appliance exceeds minimum federal energy-use standards, usually by a significant amount
- ☐ Use small kitchen appliances whenever possible. Microwaves, toaster ovens and slow-cookers can use 75 percent less energy than a large electric oven
- ☐ Use lids on pots and pans to reduce cooking times, and don't put a small pan on a large burner



- ☐ Don't leave the refrigerator and oven doors open. Every time it's opened, up to 30 percent of the air can escape
- ☐ Keep the refrigerator temperature about 36-38 degrees and the freezer at 0-5 degrees
- ☐ If you have a second refrigerator or freezer, consider getting rid of it. A spare refrigerator, especially if located in a garage during hot summer months, can add more than \$100 to your energy bills every year
- ☐ Don't overload the refrigerator or freezer. The cold air needs to circulate freely to keep foods at the proper temperature
- ☐ If you have a self-cleaning oven, use this feature immediately after cooking, while the oven is still hot, reducing a lengthy warm-up time
- ☐ Vacuum the refrigerator coils about twice a year to keep the compressor running efficiently
- ☐ Check the seal on your refrigerator door by closing it on a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily, it's time to replace the gaskets
- ☐ Instead of using a dryer, air-dry your clothes on a clothes line or drying rack
- ☐ When washing clothes, use hot water only for very dirty loads and always use cold water for the rinse cycle
- ☐ Clean the lint screen on the dryer every time you use the machine. A clogged lint screen increases energy uses up to 30 percent more energy
- ☐ Dry one load of clothes immediately after another, minimizing heat loss, reducing warm-up and drying times
- ☐ When you take a vacation, turn off and unplug everything you can and set your water heater to the lowest setting and shut off the water supply to the dishwasher and washing machine



Doors and Windows

- ☐ During the winter, keep curtains and blinds closed at night to keep cold air out and open them during the day to let the sun's warmth in
- ☐ Tinted window film can help reduce heat gain during the summer, and it will keep furniture and carpets from fading
- ☐ Seal doors and windows with caulk, weather stripping and plastic film



Electronics

- ☐ Turn off and unplug any electrical devices that are not being used as many appliances, especially computers, televisions and VCRs draw power even when turned off
- ☐ Make sure sleep functions are enabled on computers
- ☐ Add foam gaskets behind all outlet covers and switch plates and use safety plugs in all unused outlets
- ☐ Recycle unwanted computers and electronic equipment, reducing hazardous waste in the landfill



Exterior

- ☐ Check the exterior of your home for air leaks, especially around openings for water spigots, air conditioner hoses, dryer vents and gas pipes
- ☐ If you have an outdoor hot tub, keep it covered when not in use
- ☐ If you have a pool, use a solar cover to allow the sun to heat the water
- ☐ If you have an attached garage, keep the garage door closed, especially during the winter

Fireplace

- ☐ If you have a wood-burning fireplace, have the chimney cleaned and inspected regularly and burn only fully dried hardwoods to produce the most heat output
- ☐ Check the seal on the damper by closing it off and holding a piece of tissue paper inside the firebox. If drafts blow the tissue around, repair or replace the damper



- ☐ Add fire-proof caulking where the chimney meets the wall, inside and outside

Heating and Cooling

- ☐ Change or clean your furnace filter once a month. (Spray your filter with a light coating of lemon furniture polish or vegetable oil to help trap dirt on the filter)
- ☐ Install a programmable thermostat
- ☐ In winter, set your thermostat to 65-68 degrees during the day and 55 at night
- ☐ Wear warm clothes in the winter instead of turning up the heat
- ☐ Have your heating system inspected regularly
- ☐ Check insulation levels throughout the house. Upgrading from three inches to 12 inches can cut heating costs by 20 percent and cooling costs by 10 percent
- ☐ Do not close off heating registers in unused rooms
- ☐ Vacuum registers and vents regularly
- ☐ Avoid using supplemental space heaters, including electric, kerosene or propane models
- ☐ If you have hardwood or tile floors, add area rugs to keep your feet warm



- ☐ **Maintain your central air conditioner by cleaning the outside compressor with a garden hose (be sure to shut off power at the fuse or breaker first). Keep plantings at least one foot away for adequate air flow**
- ☐ **Use ceiling and box fans to help circulate air throughout the house and run the fan clockwise during the summer and counter-clockwise during the winter**
- ☐ **Consider joining the Nevada Power “Cool Share” program. (Nevada Power controls your home’s programmable thermostat in the summer peak periods)**
- ☐ **If you go on vacation in winter, lower the thermostat to 55 degrees to save energy and to prevent your pipes from freezing**
- ☐ **During the winter, remove window air conditioners and seal windows with caulk and weather stripping and cover the central air compressor with a tarp to keep it clean**

Lighting

- ☐ **Turn off unnecessary lighting**
- ☐ **Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. These bulbs use 75 percent less energy than typical incandescent and they last ten times longer**
- ☐ **Dust light fixtures regularly. A heavy coat of dust can block up to 50 percent of the light output**
- ☐ **Use devices like dimmers, motion detectors, occupancy sensors, photocells and timers to provide light only when you need it**
- ☐ **Use a single bulb in a multi-socket fixture. Be sure to check the maximum wattage the fixture allows**



Recycle And Reuse

- ☐ **Follow the local recycling guidelines**
- ☐ **Properly dispose of hazardous waste**
- ☐ **Compost food waste**

Water

- ☐ Take showers, not baths. A five-minute shower will use about 7.5 gallons of hot water, while a bath can use 20 gallons or more
- ☐ Fix leaking faucets and toilets. If you have hard water, clean aerators and shower heads with vinegar regularly to reduce deposits and build-up
- ☐ Install high-efficiency shower heads and faucet aerators
- ☐ Replace old toilets with 1.6 gallon low-flow toilets
- ☐ Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak
- ☐ Set your water heater in an insulating jacket
- ☐ Install solar-electric or solar hot water systems
- ☐ Wash full loads of dishes and clothes
- ☐ Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, shaving and washing dishes
- ☐ Use a broom, instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save up to 80 gallons of water each time
- ☐ Collect water while waiting for the hot water to reach your faucet and use it to water plants



◆ *In Your Yard* ◆

- ☐ Use electric or manual mowers and yard equipment instead of gasoline models
- ☐ Don't pour anything down storm drains
- ☐ Plant and properly maintain trees on your property
- ☐ Reduce your use of pesticides
- ☐ Don't use moss killer or other herbicides on lawn or roof
- ☐ Use open-grid paving systems for driveways or parking spaces
- ☐ Consider a "green roof"
- ☐ Reduce or replace lawn with drought-tolerant plants
- ☐ Mow high and leave grass clippings
- ☐ Plant native trees in your yard



- ☐ Compost yard waste
- ☐ Use organic fertilizers
- ☐ Water plants separately from your lawn
- ☐ Use the right plant for the right place
- ☐ Plant trees and shrubs in clusters
- ☐ Remove ivy and other invasive species
- ☐ Trim trees, don't top or remove them to improve views
- ☐ Use rain barrels or cisterns to capture rainwater for landscape use
- ☐ Plant to match the sun, shade and soil in your yard
- ☐ Follow the SNWA seasonal watering schedule
- ☐ Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation in garden beds
- ☐ Water to establish your trees and shrubs
- ☐ Use compost to enrich your soil
- ☐ Layer mulch on the soil surface around your plants

◆ *When You Shop* ◆

- ☐ Reduce your junk mail
- ☐ Ask for environmentally-preferable materials
- ☐ Sell, give away or donate reusable items
- ☐ Buy used when appropriate
- ☐ Recycle unwanted computers and electronic equipment



- ☐ Buy products that use less packaging
- ☐ Use naturally rot-resistant wood or plastic lumber instead of treated wood
- ☐ Rent or borrow tools you're likely to use infrequently
- ☐ Take your own shopping bags to the store
- ☐ Buy rechargeable batteries
- ☐ Buy products with recycled content
- ☐ Give experiences instead of stuff
- ☐ Use salvaged materials when possible
- ☐ Return unwanted aquarium plants and fish to pet stores

◆ *On The Move* ◆

- ☐ When it's time to replace your car, buy a fuel-efficient, low-polluting vehicle
- ☐ Reduce your vehicle use as much as possible
- ☐ Repair leaks, properly inflate your tires and keep your car maintained
- ☐ When boating, always use pump out stations
- ☐ Turn off your engine rather than idling
- ☐ When possible use biodiesel or the new ultra-low sulfur diesel fuels
- ☐ Shop locally, explore your neighborhood and get fit
- ☐ Bike more, drive less
- ☐ Wash your car at commercial car washes that recycle water
- ☐ Carpool if you can
- ☐ Don't top off your gas tank



◆ *In Your Community* ◆

- ☐ Pick up your pet waste and put it in the garbage
- ☐ Join an “Adopt-a-Park” group
- ☐ Adopt-a-street
- ☐ Sign your kids up for environmental stewardship programs
- ☐ Keep your cats indoors
- ☐ Certify your back yard as a bird sanctuary
- ☐ Support community gardens

